

It was observed by some of my friends on the other side that more than 50% of the chitties are even now being conducted well. Probably, Sir, it may be so where most of the subscribers happen to be officers of Government and Vakils of good practice. Certainly these people have not been hit hard by the economic depression, but in rural parts more than 75% of the chitties have really collapsed because the people have not got money to pay.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Did the committee find out that there was no provision now for the postponement of the chitties?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Census Commissioner*): That seems to be the disputed point.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is now past 3-30 and we have to begin the discussion of the adjournment motion.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Sir, the subject of my motion is, as the House is aware, the fall and the impending further fall in the price of Travancore copra due to the import of Ceylon copra into this country and its possible increase in the future.

Sir, the material prosperity of this country depends upon both the owners and the cultivators of the cocoanut trees. In the Eastern hemisphere between the Suez and the Far East, the most important countries which cultivate cocoanut trees are the Malabar Coast, Singapore, the Malay Archipelago, Ceylon and South Africa. Of these countries, the Malabar Coast including Travancore, Cochin and British Malabar, Ceylon and Singapore are five of the most prominent countries, while the East and South Africa are just taking to this cultivation on a large scale.

Sir, Travancore and Ceylon compare in many respects in their economic and industrial activities. Rubber, tea and cocoanut are the most important products cultivated both in Ceylon and here. The main prosperity of Ceylon depends upon rubber and tea, the prices of which, we all know, have fallen considerably during the last 3 or 4 years, and we do not see any prospect of revival in the near future. Travancore also has been very badly hit owing to the fall in the price of rubber and of tea; but I do not think Travancore has been hit so hard as Ceylon. Travancore, I hope, may carry on as she had been carrying on during the last couple of years. But, Ceylon with the fall in the price of rubber and of tea has lost her equilibrium not only in her economic life but also in her very national life. We have read in the papers how a deputation of the ladies of Ceylon waited before the Indian Commissioner in Ceylon pleading for the recommendation to the Government of India of the abolition of the import duty on the cocoanut products of Ceylon into India.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know, Sir, whether, under the motion now before the House, we can start a discussion of the Ottawa Conference and such other larger questions?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The Legislative Council Regulation, Rules and Standing Orders are clear about it. The terms of the Ottawa agreement or what took place elsewhere shall not be discussed, but may be *referred to incidentally*.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (Nominated) : About 4 years ago, the Government of Ceylon approached the Government of India for the abolition of the import duty into India; the question was referred to the South Indian Chamber of Commerce who asked for our expert opinion in Alleppey. We gave our opinion against the abolition of the duty, and addressed the Government of Travancore on the matter. I believe the Travancore Government have taken some steps in that direction. Ceylon did not keep quiet. At the beginning of this year, Ceylon appointed a new Trade Agent on a huge salary with a view to find out the possibility of extending the sale of her cocoanut products into India. That Agent travelled throughout India. He visited Alleppey and other places and recommended in his report that there is a considerably large untapped market for cocoanut products in India, provided the Government of Ceylon would urge upon the Government of India for the abolition of the import duty on Ceylon cocoanut products. Just at that time, the Conference was having its sitting at Ottawa, and one of the general principles they decided upon was perhaps owing to the representation made by the powerful and influential cotton magnates of Ahmedabad—that if Ceylon would give preference to Indian made cotton goods, the Government of India would consider the question of the abolition or at least the lowering of the import duty on the cocoanut products of Ceylon imported into British India.

On the 14th of October 1932, the Ceylon Times wrote editorially thus:

"Ceylon will be invited to adopt the principle of preference in respect of a number of Indian products of which cotton piecegoods are the most important. This is distinctly hopeful. If Ceylon is invited to give preference to India, it is obvious that there must be reciprocity, and it is reasonable to hope that, at long last, something may be done for the removal of the import duties on cocoanut products from Ceylon. For years, proprietors of cocoanut products in Ceylon have looked enviously on the market in Central India but entry has been handicapped by duties. Ceylon can reasonably refuse to give any preference to Indian piecegoods so long as India tries to shut out Ceylon's cocoanut products".

The seriousness of the impending danger to Travancore, the significance and importance of this editorial of a leading newspaper in Ceylon, especially the last sentence of it, will, I hope, be realised by my friends when they see that the cotton magnates of Bombay and Ahmedabad will ultimately influence the Government of India when the Ottawa Bill comes up before the Assembly and will, in their own personal interests, see that the import duty on Ceylon cocoanut products is removed.

MR. K. GEORGE (Chief Secretary to Government) : I do not think there is any proposal for the abolition of the import duty; it is only *reduction* that is proposed.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): The Ottawa Bill recommends the lowering of the existing duty on copra and oil from 25 to 20 percent. of the tariff value. Sir, we are neighbours to Ceylon and I do not mind, perhaps, more of Ceylon copra coming into India. But, what about colonial copra, copra from Singapore, and from South and East Africa. Under the Ottawa agreement, India must give preference to colonial goods while we do not get any preference at all in the colonies. It is unilateral. We get preference only in the United Kingdom. Under these circumstances, it is only fair and reasonable that we, the representatives of the agricultural interests of Travancore should not give our assent to the report of the Select Committee on the Ottawa Tariff Bill, which, I submit, will be very injurious economically both to the agricultural and the industrial interests of Travancore.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Does not wide India stand to gain by the terms of the Ottawa agreement?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): I am speaking of Travancore.

Under the Interportal Convention, our Government have to follow the lines chalked out by the Government of India in regard to import duties. According to the present schedules I think there are 3 schedules with respect to cocoanut products, one for cocoanut, another for cocoanut oil and another for copra, the import duty on copra is Rs. 17-10 as per candy; but according to the present scheme now agreed upon it will be Rs. 14-1-7; that is to say, if the proposed scheme comes into effect the price of our copra will automatically get reduced by Rs. 3-8-5.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Has the tariff value on Ceylon copra been reduced?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Sir, it is not only our copra that will be affected. The price of our husk, of our yarn, mats and matting will all ultimately be affected to the detriment of both the employers and the employees engaged in the most important industry and agriculture of this State.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Will such reduction be a stimulus to the oil industry?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): No, I am going to deal with that question also.

The present duty on oil is 25 per cent. of the tariff value. According to the Report of the Select committee on the Ottawa Bill, it is to be reduced to 20 per cent. in the case of oil also. Therefore, the proposal is not going to be a real impetus to the oil industry either. I was under the impression that the proposed reduction related only to cocoanut and copra; but the Financial Secretary drew my attention to the fact that the proposal is to reduce the duty on oil also. I did not get that information from the Associated Press of India this morning. If that be so, certainly it cannot be an impetus to the oil millers of Travancore.

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[Mr. K. C. Karunakaran.]

Sir, by temperament and training I am an industrialist. The House may remember that I have always been supporting the cause of the mill-owners as against the agriculturists for various reasons. But now I have taken the position of supporting the agriculturists here. I am doing it because if the proposed Ottawa Bill comes into effect it will affect every one in Travancore, agriculturist or industrialist, official or non-official, rich or poor.

With these few words, I place the motion for the acceptance of the House.

MR. RAMA VARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): ഇംപോർട്ടു കോളാക്ക് എന്തു വിലയായിരിക്കും?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): That will depend upon World prices. I cannot say exactly now.

MR. RAMA VARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): അവിടെ കൊല വിലകൾ കൊടുക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നാണോ വിചാരിക്കുന്നത്?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Just one point more, Sir. Even under the existing rate of import duty, Ceylon was dumping in the Alleppey market her cocoanut products and really making a small margin of profit. So, if the duty is reduced, and that to the extent of Rs. 4, Ceylon will be enabled to sell at an advantage.

There is another important point of difference between the cocoanut cultivation in Ceylon and in Travancore. We have got only small detached compounds here which yield our cocoanut produce, whereas, in Ceylon they carry on cocoanut cultivation on an extensive scale in huge plantations. I hope the Director of Agriculture can explain this matter better than I could. Ceylon can therefore afford to sell much lower than Travancore.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): What is the member's concrete proposal?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Since I read the editorial in the Ceylon Times, I approached the Chief Secretary and the Dewan of Travancore with separate memorials. I do not know what they have done with them. I have also indicated the lines on which they may move in the matter. But, from the discussion in the Assembly between Mr. Tampan, the Member for Malabar, and Sir Joseph Bhore I find that nothing has been done by the Government of Travancore. Because, Sir Joseph Bhore has openly stated in the Assembly that he was not aware of any representation from any part of Malabar or Travancore.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): What is the point of the member's representation to the Dewan and the Chief Secretary? Is it confidential? Shall we also know the contents of it?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): I think the Government member in charge of this motion in his reply will explain that.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Will the member tell us what we have to do in the matter?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Vote in support of his motion.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): The Select Committee on the Ottawa Tariff Bill will be submitting their Report to the Legislative Assembly at Delhi on Monday. If the Travancore Government with the unanimous vote of this Council can show to the Government of India the real position of Travancore in this matter, I think something can be expected out of it.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Will the abolition of our export duty on cocoanut and copra in any way help the cultivator here in escaping from the impending danger?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Should I answer that question, Sir?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): What was Mr. Tampan's proposal?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): To reduce the present 25 per cent. duty on Empire copra and to increase it in the case of non-Empire copra to 35 per cent.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Your proposal is it to follow that?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Yes.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Is there any export duty on copra in Ceylon?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): They do not call it export duty; they charge for scientific research or something, some small amount on the quantity exported.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): There is no export duty?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): They do not call it 'export duty'.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Before any of us, on this side of the House speak, on the motion, we would like to hear the Excise Commissioner, because Mr. Karunakaran has distinctly pointed out to the House that several days back he memorialised the Government. We want to know what the Government have done in the matter?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Sir, I rise to second the adjournment motion moved by Mr. Karunakaran. We have not been able to study closely what the exact effect of the proposed legislation in British India will be on our producers. But I think, when questions of great magnitude are being discussed with reference to imperial gains and losses, our small, poor country may be lost sight of. The time is coming when the economic repercussions of a small unit with the Empire of the future, when we become part of the federation, are going to have their natural effect on us the poor people of Travancore. For the sake of adjustments in the wider interests of the future federation

[Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai.]

of India, the import duty on copra and cocoanut products from Ceylon may be reduced in order that the cotton goods producers in Bombay and Ahmedabad and other influential centres in India may be benefited. I am not going to pass any stringent remarks. I shall follow the directions from the Chair. I do not propose to make any reference to policy proposed to be adopted by the Government of India or to characterise it in any way. Our Rules do not, I know, allow actual discussion of questions of policy with regard to our connection with British Indian Government. We can, at the most incidentally refer to such matters. That is all.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Incidentally, if you want you may make casual reference to it. Definite and direct attacks have to be avoided.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (Quilon): I doubt very much, Sir, whether the Government can make themselves felt with regard to this question affecting influential quarters in British India. All that we can possibly do is to make a representation that the people of Travancore depend practically entirely on cocoanut production, that they are restrained under the Interportal Convention from imposing protective import duties on products into Travancore and that therefore any attempt on the part of the Government of India to reduce the import duty on cocoanut products will seriously prejudice the interests of the people of Travancore.

Mr. Karunakaran pointed out that Sir Joseph Bhore declared openly that he was not aware of any representation from anywhere in Malabar or Travancore regarding this question. I am constrained to observe, Sir, that this is criminal negligence on the part of the Government of Travancore. I want to emphasise now, as I have never been tired of emphasising that our Customs Department has long been in the hands of ill-equipped hands. That is a department which has the future of the country in its hands. It is highly necessary that it is placed under an expert in customs, one who knows the business and who is interested in it. Unless that is done there is absolutely no use in our blaming the Government here or the British Government when our interests are being ignored. If there had been a vigilant and capable officer at the head of our Customs Department there is no doubt that a proper representation of our position in the matter would have been made to the Government of India in proper time, long ago. Therefore, what we most urgently need, in this matter especially, is internal reform in the administration of our Customs Department.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (Nominated): Is the member aware that Sir Joseph Bhore knows the conditions in Malabar?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (Quilon): He may or may not know that. He is a servant of the Government of India and he is not concerned with petty details. The Government of India are considering a big question of which Travancore matter is only a tiny drop.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (Nominated): Is the member aware that he was the Dewan of Cochin?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): For arguments sake I may even concede that that he is a Travancorean or a Cochinite. Even then, he cannot stress the point more than his official position warrants. He is not concerned with your copra and tiny questions of the kind. In a big question, tariff on copra in so far as it affects Travancore is a very small matter to them. We are not empowered to blame Sir Joseph Bhore for not putting our point of view.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Does not the member think that if proper representations had been made at the proper time, Sir Joseph Bhore would have appreciated our position better?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): I think Mr. Karunakaran misunderstands me. I am entirely at one with him. I say our Government did not make proper representation at the proper time. That is what I have been saying all the time.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Is it the member's idea that if the representation had been made to Sir Joseph Bhore in proper time he would have taken interest in the matter?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): I cannot speculate.

If Sir Joseph Bhore had been appraised of the seriousness of the matter sufficiently early, it would not have been possible for him to give this excuse that nobody from Malabar raised this question. I am not at all sanguine that if a representation had been made everything would go alright. Even after this, if a representation is made, I am not at all sure that everything would be right. We cannot blame that the Officer in charge of the customs in British India did not make a representation. For that matter, I may say that if we had the capacity to impose import duties, it would have been a different position. I think, considering all these matters, Government ought to make a representation to the Government of India. I do not know what would be the exact effect of this on the producer of copra. I also want Government to go into this question, if, suppose export duty on copra is abolished, in Travancore how will it compete with copra that comes into British India from Ceylon? All these questions have to be gone into carefully and proper representation made to the Government of India so that this most important source of income for the ordinary producer of Travancore may not be jeopardized. With these words, I second the adjournment motion of Mr. Karunakaran.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It was mentioned a little while ago by Mr. Karunakaran that the Travancore Government did not make any representation to the Government of India on the subject. It is true, we have not made any representation just now. That was because, the question of ratifying the Ottawa Agreement was recently under discussion in the Indian Legislative Assembly.

I may inform the House, that, as early as November 1930, the Travancore Government hearing that there was a suggestion to reduce the import duty on copra, made a strong protest to the Government of India. In reply to that, we were assured that the facts mentioned

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therein have been noted by the Government of India and will receive their fullest consideration before any action is taken to reduce the import duty on copra, or cocoanut oil. They further said that at that time there was no intention to reduce the duty on either of those articles. That was in February 1931. Subsequent developments were the results of the Ottawa Agreement.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Probably that was before the Ottawa Conference.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

At the same time, the Government of India promised to give full consideration to our representation. The later development was in connection with the Ottawa Conference and the subsequent proposal from the Government of India to ratify the agreement which our Indian delegates made to the British Government. That was under discussion in the Legislative Assembly very recently. I am not able to recollect the exact date of the proceedings; but I believe, it was two or three days ago when the Tariff Bill was placed before the Assembly. The Travancore Chamber of Commerce represented to the Travancore Government in their letter dated the 15th November 1932 that they should represent to the Government of India on the necessity of keeping up the duty. Mr. Karunakaran was drawing our attention to a paragraph in the Ceylon Times. The Chamber of Commerce writing to the Government of Travancore also quoted the same paragraph and asked Government to make certain representations. The Government was not, at that time, in a position to understand exactly how matters had taken shape. Also, members full well know that there was a great deal of discussion as to how the question of ratifying the Ottawa Agreement will be dealt with by the Assembly. The Assembly, as you all know, placed the matter before a Committee and the majority of the members of the Committee recommended the ratification of the Agreement. It was only 2 or 3 days ago the Indian Legislative Assembly passed Sir Gour's proposition to ratify the agreement. Then the Bill was published in the Government of India Gazette. From that we find that the tariff value on copra and oil are affected by the present proposal of the Government of India. At present the duty on imported copra is 25 per cent. or Rs. 11/12 per candy. The proposal in the Tariff Bill is to the effect that though the duty be raised to 30 per cent tariff value will remain the same. But it is to be borne in mind that preference be given to the Empire copra to the extent of 10 per cent. That has been explained by Mr. Karunakaran. The result would be a reduction of 5 per cent. duty on Empire produced copra outside India. It cannot be denied that the reduction will not benefit our producers. As Mr. Karunakaran himself explained, it is possible for cocoanut magnates in Ceylon to plant extensive areas, on scientific lines to produce cocoanuts at much cheaper rates than Travancore and to export them to Travancore and to British India at prices with which Travancoreans cannot compete. In fact, it must be remembered even with 25 per cent. duty Ceylon copra can compete with our copra in Cochin and Travancore. There was a protest about that.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Is it the member's opinion that if Ceylon copra goes out of Travancore, export duty will not be levied?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No. Ceylon copra comes here for consumption.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Suppose it is converted into coconut oil, will there not be duty?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is exempted from payment of duty.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): If copra imported at Alleppey is converted into oil and exported, is there not a necessity for payment of export duty?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Some concession was granted to Ceylon Copra.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Excise Commissioner says that concession was granted.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Under the circumstances, why not the Excise Commissioner be asked to explain our doubts then and there instead of the chief Secretary?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It was suggested that Government did not take any action and so, I am speaking the circumstances that led to that.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Is the member aware that Copra Mill-owners at Ceylon export white copra to Bombay?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not know all that.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Am I to understand that oil exported from Travancore is dutiable or not in reference to the country where copra is found in plenty?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That aspect of the matter will be dealt with by the Excise Commissioner.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Ceylon copra which comes into Travancore pays a duty of Rs. 17/10 per candy.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): But when it is converted into oil and exported, should the same pay a duty?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. RAMA VARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): How do you distinguish that?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There are different methods of calculation.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know from the member whether any copra is imported into Travancore from places outside the British Empire?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am not sure. It may be exported from Java and Phillipines.

Mr. Karunakaran's suggestion is that we should make a representation to the Government of India. The reason why we did not make any representation till now is this. It was only two or three days ago

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the Government of India publication in the matter appeared in the Gazette. It states that there is a proposal to reduce the duty on Ceylon copra and oil.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know from the member what was the constructive proposal put forward by Mr. Karunakaran?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not know. But Government are in entire sympathy with all that was said by Mr. Karunakaran. I think, as Mr. Karunakaran says, if this House would unanimously resolve to ask the Travancore Government to send a representation to the Government of India, our Government will only be glad to abide by that request (voice of hear, hear from the non-official side). I would further add that, if the Travancore Chamber of Commerce would also do like that, it may have more effect. Of course, as Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai said we cannot be quite sanguine that when the Government of India is considering big questions, our representation will count for much. Anyhow, we will try to send a representation.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavehikara cum Kartikapalli*): Can this Government address the British Cabinet direct?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Only through the Government of India.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): In view of the possible reduction in the export duty just now announced, may I know the definite proposal that the Travancore Government has in mind?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Government of India announcement has just been published in the Government of India Gazette.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Something was represented to the Government of India by our Government in 1930. What was that?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): At that time, the Government of India only promised to take into consideration our prayers. It is only now a definite proposal has been made by the Government of India with reference to duty. We might say that we support the proposition which was moved by the member for Malabar, namely, that 25 per-cent. duty be retained and for Non-Empire products the duty be fixed at 35 per cent.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That refers to duty on copra as well as oil. But Mr. Karunakaran wants to make a reference to copra only.

MR. K. G. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): I have no objection to include oil also.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): In case the Government of India are not prepared to listen, but differ from our proposal, is there any alternative proposal with reference to reduction of duty from our Travancore Government?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Such a situation has not come at all in reference to the Government of India and the Travancore Government. When the occasion comes up, I am sure, the Government of India will take up the matter.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether the Government of Travancore propose to consider about sending a representation at all?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): If any practical suggestion is forthcoming the Government are prepared to consider that.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): What I want to know is this. Is there any expert knowledge available on the subject in the country to consider the whole question from various aspects and make a definite proposal to the Government of India?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): You have sufficient men of intelligence and experience in the country. You can consider the matter and say what all steps are necessary for Government to act up to.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Why not Government appoint a Committee for this purpose?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Let there be something definite to proceed on.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Suppose, export duty on copra is reduced, will Travancore be able to compete successfully?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It will not result in any increase in the price of local copra. Ceylon copra will still be dumped in our State.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): The Chief Secretary has suggested just now that the oil extracted from Ceylon copra is subject to export duty.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): At present it is exempted.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Then in that case, are our Government competent to impose a duty on the same?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We are free to do that.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether there are raw cocoanuts imported into Travancore?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not know.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): What is the percentage of copra, cocoanut oil and raw cocoanuts, exported from Travancore?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): A reference to the statistics will answer the question.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): On the question of Mr. Karunakaran's motion, I may assure the House that, the Government share both the views and the apprehension with equal force as the non-official members themselves. Recently, I had the opportunity of meeting a gentleman from Ceylon interested in the cultivation of cocoanut and the manufacture of copra. From him I knew that they can produce and export copra much cheaper than we can do. The chief reason is that land there is very cheap. I told him what the cost of production here is as regards each item. When we came to the question of the price of land I told him that 1 acre of cocoanut land may cost Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 2,000. He said that there it would not be above Rs. 250 per acre of cocoanut land before cultivation.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): May I know how the price of land can affect the produce of cocoanut?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): They calculate the cost of production on the investment they make. A man or a company may take 500 or 1,000 acres for cocoanut cultivation just as we do it here for tea or rubber plantation.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is the Rs. 250 mentioned by the member the cost of land after cultivation or before cultivation?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The price before cultivation.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I want to know whether we cannot get land at about the same price in Travancore also?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Because they cultivate on a large scale the production is cheaper, I say that is one of the reasons.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Is Ceylon soil cheaper than Travancore soil?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, that is what I consider.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): What is the average rate at which land can be registered here?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): That depends upon various considerations.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): What is the average? Is it anything more than one or two rupees?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I do not think we have got land fit for cocoanut cultivation to be registered on a large scale.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Even on a small scale system. Is there not at least one acre of land fit for cultivation for registry?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The member knows it.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I am asking the member as to what he knows?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Our cost of production is much more than what it is in Ceylon. They can sell cheaper than here. That is all what we are concerned with here.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): May I request the member to come away from Ceylon affairs and talk of Travancore affairs?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Even supposing that the contemplated reduction becomes a possibility, in what way it will adversely affect the trade balance of the Government of India? Suppose the import duty of the entire products of copra is reduced by 5 per cent. in what way will it affect the trade balance of Travancore? How will it affect our import duty?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I do not understand the member. Is it how it will affect the export duty?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Yes.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): So far as Travancore is concerned it has no separate existence as regards import duty on cocoanut.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Supposing the Ceylon Government is giving a preference by way of reduction of 5 per cent., then Ceylon copra may come into Travancore where it is likely to be converted into oil and punnac. If this has to be exported again, of course a duty is realised by the Government of India.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Does the member mean cocoanut oil manufactured out of Ceylon copra?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Yes.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Under the Regulation there is a duty. But as a result of the representation of the Travancore Chamber of Commerce, and the Alleppey Mill-owners a concession has been granted to export oil free of duty till the end of this year.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Is not the concession highly detrimental to the cocoanut cultivation in Travancore?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): That information, I am sure, is based on an incorrect understanding of the trade situation in Travancore and in India.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): I want the Excise Commissioner to speak chiefly upon that, because that has caused very much misunderstanding.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I will most willingly do that. Travancore cocoanut and oil has no market of its own. Even if the Ceylon copra does not come to Travancore it will go to Cochin, Karachi and Bombay where our copra and oil are also sold. If it lowers the price in those markets, it will lower the price of cocoanut and oil in this country also because we have no independent market of our own.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): I am told that Travancore oil is given preference to Ceylon oil outside the State and we are enjoying a reputation for that. By this concession will not that reputation be lost?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): If we have got such a reputation it will not be affected by the concession granted to the Travancore Mill-owners. It goes to Cochin along with other oil. From there it goes as Cochin oil. We share the same fate. Even in that aspect we do not stand to lose anything.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): How would the department distinguish Ceylon oil from Travancore oil?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): For that I would invite the attention of the member to the Government order dated 4th October 1932 R. O. C. 5383/32/Devpt. wherein the procedure to distinguish oil crushed out of Ceylon copra from that of Travancore is laid down. When the Ceylon copra is imported by a Mill-owner an officer in charge of the Choukey will give a certificate saying that he has imported so much copra. But the Mill-owner should also state through what Choukey he would export it so that the officer in charge may issue a certificate in duplicate saying that so and so is allowed to export so much of oil free of duty. This procedure may be clearly seen from the orders of Government published in the Gazette. The Mill-owners are demanding still further concessions. But in consideration of the agitation in the country against it, the Government have not granted any further concession.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): So, Travancore oil also should be taken. It is not possible to distinguish when once it is crushed out of copra.

MR. RAMA VARMA RAJA (*Edavagai*): ഇതു കപാണ്ടിററി കൊല്ലം ഇതു എണ്ണ എന്നു നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്നതെങ്ങിനെ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It has been ascertained by experience that one candy of copra yields 62½ per cent. of oil and 35 percent. of punnac, the rest being wastage.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): I hope Government gave this concession with the hope that the permanent Mill-owners will consume a good quantity of Travancore copra. Export duty on copra in Travancore was increased for the benefit obviously of the Mill-owners. One reason for making that concession was that they were permanent consumers of our cocoanut. Is that a consideration still now?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): That was a consideration and is still a consideration.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): May I know whether that consideration is ignored now when Ceylon copra is allowed to be imported into Travancore for the use of the Mill-owners on favourable rates?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I do not think it has been ignored.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): If they could import Ceylon copra and produce oil in Travancore to be profitably sold; then so much less of Travancore copra will be consumed by the Mill-owners.

of Travancore. So that, is it not reducing the demand of Travancore copra to that extent and acting against the interests of the cultivation of coconut in Travancore?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): No. The market of Travancore Mill-owner is not confined to Travancore alone. They do not take all sorts of Travancore copra because some variety fetches very high prices.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): According to the admission of the member, Travancore Mill owners prefer Ceylon copra?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Now Ceylon copra is not coming. The price of Ceylon copra in India will now be higher than Indian market price when the import duty, freight and insurance are also taken into account. So they cannot import Ceylon copra favourably now and even for some time to come, if the import duty remains as at present.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): As it is at present, does not the Travancore Mill-owner go in for Travancore copra in preference to Ceylon copra?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): When prices are favourable.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): What is the condition now?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Just now it is not so. Now the Ceylon copra is not coming because price has risen there and it has fallen in India. A few days ago I had a discussion with the Mill-owners at Alleppey. Freight, insurance and other expenses come to more than Rs. 7 per candy. When the price of copra in Ceylon is lower by Rs. 23 - 24 per candy than the price in India then only Ceylon copra can come to Travancore and not otherwise. I may also inform the House that about 20 years ago this very same concession had been granted.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Was it on oil or copra? Probably the member refers to oil?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The very same concession was granted.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Was it not when the Travancore Mill-owners wanted to import Ceylon copra in preference to Travancore copra that they were allowed to do so?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): When the Travancore Mill-owner found that the Ceylon copra was cheaper he went in for that.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): So knowing this, Government gave concession when the Travancore Mill-owner wanted to bring down Ceylon copra in preference to Travancore copra?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It is not at all a question of preference or anything like that. The member is forgetting the fact that we are not able to get our own markets. Ceylon copra can easily go to Cochin and other places and so Cochin price and other prices fall. Our price also automatically falls.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): So, we anticipated the fall?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Not at all.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ എണ്ണയുടെ കൂടുതൽ വില കിട്ടുമെന്നുള്ള മാർക്കറ്റുണ്ടോ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): ഇല്ല.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): For whose benefit was this concession granted?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It was granted for the benefit of the Travancore Mill-owners to compete with the Mill-owners in Cochin.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Was it on their request that they did not get sufficient Travancore copra for working their mills?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, they had that complaint also. For some months there was very great scarcity for Travancore copra. Coupled with that they could get Ceylon copra cheaper.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Is it that they would not pay proper price?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): No.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): I understand from Government publications that there are only 13 oil mills in Travancore. Am I to understand that Travancore is not able to supply these 13 mills with her own copra?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): As I explained already all the copra is not given to mills.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): May I know the basis for the assertion that Ceylon copra may not come into Travancore for some time?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The price of copra has now gone up on account of the demand from European markets. Ceylon will sell only in those places where she can get higher prices.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Am I to understand that Ceylon copra is finding a sale in European markets?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): That is my information.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): What is the source of the member's information?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): When I was in Alleppey a few days ago, I had a talk with the Mill-owners there, and I got this information from them.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): What is the basis of the buying done by the Alleppey Mill-owners?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I don't understand what is meant by the "basis of buying"?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Perhaps the member has heard of f. o. b. or c. i. f. or landed weight buying?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I have explained the action taken by the Government in the matter. I have not heard of what is obtaining among the merchants.

I have already stated that the fullest consideration will be given to the representation before any action is taken. There is no necessity for further action on the part of the Government at present. I may also inform the House that Government were not unmindful of their duty in this respect. Without violating any confidence, I may say that there was even this week a talk on this matter. The highest authority in the land then expressed his intention* of moving the Government of India. Even if such a motion had not come before this Council, such a representation would have been made. Even if this motion had not come I may say that action would have been taken by Government.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): May I know from the member whether he has seen the article regarding import duty published in *the Times of Ceylon* dated the 13th October?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, I have seen it.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): May I know whether he has seen the comments in *The Western Star* of the 4th November?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, I have seen that too.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): May I know what action has been taken on that?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Action has been taken though no written report has been sent up.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): The member was assuring the House that for some time at least, we need not be afraid of Ceylon copra because it finds a higher price elsewhere.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): That is only an expectation.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Now, the article referred to in a *respectable daily* from Colombo says otherwise. The article specifically says that Ceylon copra ought to be given preference in India and not in Europe. If they are in thriving circumstances in Europe, would this paper have come out with this article?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The expectation is that for the rest of this year there may not be much demand. We have granted this concession only up to the end of this year.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): The circumstances up to October 19 were clearly referred to by a responsible journal. What is the changed condition of things since that date? The member should be in possession of information about the changed condition of things to give an assurance like this.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The price of copra has gone up during the last week.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Sir, in supporting the motion before the House, I wish to speak a few words. It is the duty of the Government to protect and encourage its chief staple industries. The cocoanut industry is the most important industry in the country. Lakhs of people depend for their livelihood upon this industry. One of the modes adopted by civilised countries for protecting and encouraging their Industries is to impose a duty upon imports from other countries. Travancore also enjoyed that privilege till the Interportal Convention was entered into. At that time both the British Government and Travancore Government hoped that that Convention would be made use of for protecting the interests of both parties equally and that it will never be used as a weapon to the detriment of one of the parties. If Travancore were free to impose import duties as it liked, our difficulties would have been less. I do not say that we would have been able to dominate the situation. But we would never have been in such a helpless condition. Ceylon would have corresponded with us, or the British Government would have corresponded with us before deciding that the import duty on Ceylon copra should be reduced from 25 to 20 per cent. After entering into that Convention we are in a helpless condition.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Granting for argument's sake that the Interportal Convention is not in force, what will be the effect of retaining the 25 per cent. duty?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): At least Ceylon copra would not have been imported into Alleppey. That is why I said, at the start, that it would have enabled us to enter into some terms with other countries. Now we are uncared for. If the Government of India decides in one way we are to follow that. What I am just suggesting is this: the fact that we have entered into a solemn agreement with the Government of India with regard to our imports and that we are under certain disabilities to impose our terms on other countries, will weigh with the Government of India, and because Travancore is a small State, and because they could not press sufficiently or make their opinion felt upon the British Government, they will in no way neglect our demands.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Since the Government have assured the House that they are one with the House in thinking that a strong representation in regard to this is highly necessary, no lengthy speech is required from this side of the House. But the replies given on behalf of the Government give rise to certain doubts which I want to get cleared. It has been stated by Mr. Karunakaran in his introductory speech, that when Sir Bhore was asked by Mr. Thamman whether any representation was received from any on the Malabar coast, the reply was in the negative. I want to know if a representation on behalf of the Travancore Government dated some month in 1930 had gone to the Government of India in clear terms as to the impending danger in regard to this and if so why Sir Bhore was able to give a reply only in the negative. Either he is a man of very short memory or the Travancore Government could not express themselves well. These are the only two conclusions that could be arrived at.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The representation by the Travancore Government was perfectly clear.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Then I think there is the only other alternative.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Probably he referred to representation as a result of the Ottawa Conference itself.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Often in this House do not our official members give answers on the spur of the moment without referring to the papers?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): May be that the Malabar coast does not include Travancore?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): If so, his knowledge of Geography does him little credit. I am not yet sure that we are free from dangers of Ceylon copra.

The Excise Commissioner assures us that during his stay at Alleppey he had leisure to talk to a miller there who told him probably, among other things, about the affairs of the World, in the course of which the Excise Commissioner was assured by that miller.....an unknown man, expert of economics and commerce that Ceylon copra because it fetches a higher price in Europe, we need not worry ourselves about it. But Mr. Karunakaran on the strength of those two records, the A. P. I's message and also leading articles of a responsible journal in Ceylon tells us that we ought to be every moment afraid of this and as such a representation as forcibly expressed as possible ought to go to the Government of India with the strength of a unanimous resolution passed by this House. It may also be submitted that as can be gathered from A. P. I. message, Ceylon offers a threat to India in general i. e., if the Ceylon cocoanut products are not given preference here they are not going to accept cotton goods from India hereafter. As between the claims of those who have vested interests in cotton goods in India and of us in poor Travancore, we may not succeed in making ourselves felt. This has to be clearly borne in mind by the Government.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): തിരുവിതാംകൂർ കൃഷിക്കുപ്രധാന

[Mr. P. S. Mahomed.]

മായ ഒരു സംസ്ഥാനമാണെന്നു എല്ലാവരും സമ്മതിക്കുന്ന ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ്. നാളികേരത്തിനാണ് ഇവിടെ ഏറ്റവും പ്രാധാന്യം സിദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഈ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ സാമ്പത്തികനില സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്നതു മിക്കവാറും നാളികേരത്തിന്റെ വിലയെ ആശ്രയിച്ചാകുന്നു. കൊപ്ര, കയർ ഇവയെല്ലാം നാളികേരത്തിൽനിന്നു ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നവയാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ടു കൊപ്ര, കയർ മുതലായ സാധനങ്ങൾക്കു നല്ല മാർക്കറു ഉണ്ടാക്കി അതിന്റെവില എത്രത്തോളം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുമോ അത്രത്തോളം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാൻ ശ്രമിക്കുകയെന്നുള്ളതു് തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ഒഴിച്ചുകൂടാൻപാടില്ലാത്ത ഒരു കടമയാണെന്നുള്ളതു് നിർവ്വിവാദമായ ഒരു സംഗതിയത്രെ. ഈ കടമയെ വേണ്ടവിധത്തിൽ നിർവ്വഹിക്കണമെന്നു് ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്നേ ഓർമ്മിപ്പിക്കാനായി മി. കരുണാകരൻ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള അടിയന്തിരപ്രമേയമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നതു്. അദ്ദേഹം പറയുന്നപ്രകാരം തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ കൊപ്രായുടേയും, വെളിച്ചെണ്ണയുടേയും വില ഇൻഡ്യയിലെ മറ്റു ഭാഗത്തുള്ള താരിപ്പുവിലയേക്കാൾ വ്യത്യാസം വരുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതു് ശരിയാണെങ്കിൽ അതു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനെ സാരമായ ബാധിക്കും എന്നുള്ളതു് സംശയം അറ്റ സംഗതിയാണ്. എന്നാൽ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനു സ്വന്തനിലയിൽ വേണ്ട പ്രവർത്തികൾ ചെയ്യാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ല എന്നുള്ളതും ഈ ഫെക്സിനറിയാം. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള സംഗതികളിൽ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ നിലയേയും തിരുവിതാംകൂറും, ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഗവണ്മെന്റുമായുള്ള ബന്ധത്തേയും അവർ തമ്മിലുള്ള കച്ചവടസംബന്ധമായ നിലയേയും നോക്കുമ്പോൾ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനു ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ കൂടുതലായി ഒന്നും പ്രവർത്തിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ലെന്നുള്ളതിനാൽ ഈ സംഗതി ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഗവണ്മെന്റിനേയും, സിലോണു കാരെയും മനസ്സിലാക്കി “ഇന്നത്തേ താരിപ്പുവിലയിൽ ഭേദം വരുത്താൻപാടില്ലെന്നു്” ശക്തിയായി നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെന്റു പ്രവർത്തിക്കുമെന്നും, അങ്ങിനെ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുമെന്നു നമ്മോടു വാഗ്ദാനം ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു അതിനെപ്പറ്റി കൂടുതലായി ഒന്നും പറയുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ അതിൽ എന്താണു ചെയ്യേണ്ടതെന്നു നോക്കുന്നപക്ഷം ഒരു സംഗതി നമുക്കു കാണാം. അതായതു, മലബാറിലെ പ്രതിനിധി വാദിക്കുന്നപ്രകാരം എമ്പയർ കൊപ്രയ്ക്കു ഏറ്റവും ഇരുപത്തിയഞ്ചും, നാൺഏമ്പയർ കൊപ്രയ്ക്കു ഏറ്റവും മുപ്പത്തിയഞ്ചും വീതം താരിപ്പുവില വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കണമെന്ന ശുപാർശയെ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവണ്മെന്റും ശക്തിയോടുകൂടി അനുകൂലിക്കണമെന്നു് ഏന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): കൊപ്രാക്കുമാത്രം മതിയോ? അതല്ല വെളിച്ചെണ്ണയ്ക്കും കൂടി വേണോ?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): വെളിച്ചെണ്ണയ്ക്കും കൂടി വേണം. എന്നാൽ സിലോൺ കൊപ്രാ ആലപ്പുഴയിൽ ഇറക്കുമതി ചെയ്യുന്നതു കൊണ്ട് തിരുവിതാംകൂർ കൊപ്രായുടെ വില കുറയുകയില്ലയോ എന്നുള്ള ഒരു ഭയം ഈ ഹൗസിൽ പലർക്കും ഉള്ളതായിരിക്കട്ടെ. വാസ്തവത്തിൽ സിലോണിലേ വിലകുറഞ്ഞ കൊപ്രാ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഇറക്കുമതി ചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ഇവിടത്തെ കൊപ്രായ്ക്കു വില ഇടിയുമെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി നമുക്കറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. അതുവരാതെ ഇതന്നാൽ ഇവിടത്തെ കൊപ്രായുടെ വില കുറയുമോ എന്നു നാം ആലോചിക്കണം. അങ്ങിനെ നോക്കുന്നപക്ഷം തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ എണ്ണയ്ക്കു വിലകൂടാനുള്ള ഒരു മാർഗ്ഗം ഇല്ലാതെ ഇരിയ്ക്കുന്നിടത്തോളംകാലം, വെളിച്ചെണ്ണയ്ക്കു വില കുറഞ്ഞ കൊപ്രാ ഇവിടെ ഇറക്കുമതി ചെയ്യാതിരിക്കുന്നു എങ്കിൽ അത് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ മില്ലുകൾക്കുകൂടി സ്വല്പം ഭൂഷ്യാ വരുന്നതാണ്. നേരെമറിച്ചു വെളിച്ചെണ്ണയ്ക്കു കൊപ്രാ ഇവിടെ വരാതിരിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം, വെളിച്ചെണ്ണയ്ക്കുവച്ചുതന്നെ എണ്ണയാക്കി അയക്കാനും സൗകര്യമുണ്ട്. വെളിച്ചെണ്ണയിൽ ക്രമാധികമായി വില കുറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ആലപ്പുഴയുടെകാര്യം കൂടുതലായി ആലോചിച്ചു ചെയ്യേണ്ട ഒരു കാര്യമാണ്. ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു നമ്മുടെ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണറുടെ പ്രസംഗംകൊണ്ടു എനിക്കു മനസ്സിലാക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചത് ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഭയംതീരാൻ സൗകര്യമുണ്ടെന്നും അടുത്തകാലത്തു അതുണ്ടാകുകയില്ലെന്നുമാണ്. അതു എത്രത്തോളം ശരിയാണെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

അതിനാൽ ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള സന്ദർഭങ്ങൾ ഇനിമേൽവരുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ ഡ്യൂട്ടി സംബന്ധമായ സംഗതികൾ നമുക്ക് ഗുണകരമായവയ്ക്കായി തീരുന്നതിനു പ്രവർത്തിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി കൂടുതലായി വേറെ വല്ലതും ചെയ്യാനുണ്ടോ എന്നുള്ള സംഗതികൂടി ഇവിടെ ആലോചിക്കണമെന്നു രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊണ്ടു എന്റെ പ്രസംഗം അവസാനിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): I do not want to make a speech on this topic because our position has been accepted by the Government. No explanation or argument is, therefore, necessary to convince the Government in this matter. But the deplorable effect produced by some members on the other side of the House makes me rise to speak a few words on this motion.

The Ottawa Pact was being discussed in the Assembly. As a maritime State, everybody here ought to know that Travancore is likely to be affected by the discussions going on in the Assembly. Of

[Mr. K. Gopalakrishna Pillai.]

Government have engaged a costly Legal and Constitutional Adviser, and it is his duty mainly to be on the look out when our interests are likely to be affected. My friends on the other side have been telling us that the question was being discussed in the Assembly only during the last three days and that therefore it is too early to expect them to do anything in the matter. Sir, is it not their duty to take immediate action in such very important matters affecting the vital interests of Travancore? Should they not be in the know of things as they take place in British India? As things stand at present I wonder what our representation at the Round Table Conference would have done. I fear our interests would not have been represented there at all. We will know of it only after final conclusions have been arrived at. Perhaps, after everything is settled against us our officers may stand up and say "We come to know of it only a few days back. What can we do?" If such negligence on the officers is not criminal, I wonder what else in the world is criminal. That the question was only very recently discussed in the Assembly is no reason why our interest was not represented there in time. It is only now that we are thinking of sending our representation to the Government of India. What is the use of our sending our representation after final conclusions have been arrived at? In such matters it is absolutely necessary that we raise our voice and make ourselves felt before final conclusions are arrived at. I must therefore say that it was wanton negligence on the part of the Government in not taking timely steps to safeguard our interests.

I am very glad to find that my friend Mr. Karunakaran himself is now studying for the cause of the cocoanut cultivators here. He has all along been advocating the cause of the Mill-owner as against the interests of the producers. Whenever we were urging the abolition of export duties on cocoanut products, he has always been opposing us in the interests of the local millers. Now he realises that the whole cocoanut production in Travancore is at stake; and he himself has moved a motion for protecting the local cocoanut producer. He realises that if the local cocoanut production is hit the local Mill-owners also would be bit and would have to close their mills.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Suppose Ceylon copra is available to the local Mill-owner at a price far lower than that of local copra?

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): The Ceylon copra will be sold cheap here only till the local cocoanut production is killed. The price will then surely go up. In the permanent interests of Travancore the local cocoanut producer must be helped and encouraged so that the local industrialist can always depend upon local products. Mr. Karunakaran has, I am glad realised that.

Then, Sir, what are we to do if our representation to the Government of India does not bear any fruit? I think the only solution then

would be to abolish our export duty on our cocoanut products. Will the Government consider that question? That is what I want to know.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (Nominated): Sir, on the whole I am not satisfied with the replies given by the official members. The Chief Secretary, by giving us the history of the tariff question with regard to copra and cocoanut oil, tackled only the theory of the question. I do not think he made any useful observation in regard to the important problem which we have to face immediately.

• With regard to the Excise Commissioner he utterly failed to reply to the various arguments raised. With regard to his anticipation or expectation that Ceylon copra would not be coming to Alleppey for sometime to come I want to know the basis for that statement of his. When I asked him about the basis for that speculation of his he said that some Mill-owner at Alleppey told him like that. Sir, I have been studying closely the movement of Ceylon copra into Travancore, and I know that there are mainly two systems of buying copra. The more intelligent and the cleverer Mill-owners buy Ceylon copra on landed weight bans. There is also another system of buying, followed by less intelligent and less experienced business men, under which the merchants go so far as Colombo and purchase it from time to time on C. I. F. basis. These gentlemen have to clear their copra direct from the steamer. They suffer loss of weight and wastage. The former cleverer set of buyers do not suffer any wastage. They have to be given landing weightment. I think the Excise Commissioner interviewed the less fortunate or the less intelligent buyers of copra. Ceylon copra can be imported into Alleppey at Rs. 4 and odd less than its present price if the duty is reduced as is now being proposed.

That is the situation. The reply given by the Excise Commissioner exhibited his poor anticipations in regard to movement of Ceylon copra. He said that Ceylon copra may not be coming to Travancore for sometime to come.

There is another thing that did not satisfy me. The Excise Commissioner was not able to take action with regard to the publication given in the *Western Star* in a leading article and also in *Malayala Rajyam's* leading article. Even in regard to my representation in person, he has not taken any real step in that direction.

Then somebody said about the export duty which I do not wish to enter into for discussion just now. If the Government have assured me that they would send a telegram—am I right in concluding like that?

MR. K. GEORGE (Chief Secretary to Government): There was no such assurance from the Government.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (Nominated): Both the Chief Secretary and the Excise Commissioner were not able to satisfy me. The behaviour they have meted out to this important problem from the point of view of agriculturists, especially from the 15th October 1932 onwards, is highly deplorable.

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MR. E. V. KRISHNĀ PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Does the member want the Government of Travancore to send an urgent telegraphic representation to the Government of India?

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Yes.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government accept that.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I made mention that Ceylon copra will not come here for some time to come. By that I do not mean that we should not take any action to prevent a reduction in the matter of duty. I only mentioned that for the sake of information to the House. I am only at one with Mr. Karunakaran in thinking that we should do all that lies in our power to prevent any reduction in the import duty on copra that is foreign to India.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: We will take it that there is no voice against the motion and hence the motion is unanimously passed.:

Now, I put it to the House that the House do adjourn on this ground.

The House accepted the motion *nem con.*

The Council adjourned at 5-3 P. M.

A. KUMARA PILLAI.

Secretary to the Legislative Council.

